

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 CU-02 IO-13 OIC-02 DHA-02
/085 W

-----271846Z 065198 /44

R 27101020Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, CSCE,CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PRAGUE 246 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF INCREASING ATTACKS IN THE MEDIA, THE CHARTER 77 GROUP IS CONTINUING TO PRESS ITS CASE. NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES, ACCORDING TO SPOKESMEN FOR THE GROUP, HAS NOW PASSED FOUR HUNDRED, AND CHARTER 77 ITSELF IS BEING DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE PRAGUE, WHERE SOME INTERROGATIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY
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TAKEN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF HAS SEEN UNNUMBERED DOCUMENT ISSUED OVER NAMES OF JIRI HAJEK AND JAN PATOCKA, TWO PRINCIPAL CHARTER 77 SPOKESMEN STILL AT LIBERTY, AND DATED JANUARY 23, 1977. IT IS ADDRESSED TO "GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC," AND CONSISTS

OF THREE QUESTIONS: 1) ARE THE PACTS REFERRED TO IN CHARTER 77 IN FACT IN FORCE? 2) IF SO, DO THE RIGHTS STATED IN THOSE PACTS APPLY? 3) DOES THERE EXIST IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ANYONE DESIGNATED TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND THOSE WHO TRY TO CLAIM THEM?

3. AFP CORRESPONDENT WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH JAN PATOCKA QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THAT THE UNMBER OF CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES HAS PASSED 400, BUT THAT NEW SIGNATURES ARE NOT BEING PUBLISHED. ORIGINAL CHARTER 77 TEXT HAS BEGUN TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY ITS SUPPORTERS OUTSIDE OF PRAGUE -- IN PARTICULAR IN LIBEREC AND BRNO, WHERE POLICE HAVE, ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST, CALLED SOME DISSIDENTS IN FOR QUESTIONING.

4. CHARTER SIGNATORY KAROL SIDON, A WRITER, WAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING JANUARY 21 AND HAD NOT YET BEEN RELEASED AS OF JANUARY 26. MEANWHILE, THE REGIME IS ALSO INTENSIFYING ITS ATTACKS ON WHAT IT CALLS THE "HOSTILE WESTERN PRESS." WEST GERMAN RADIO AND TV CORRESPONDENT WOLF HANKE WAS CRITICIZED ON PRAGUE TELEVISION JANUARY 25. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT, PIERRE REQUETTE, WHO HAS BEEN OBJECT OF RECENT ATTACKS IN RUDE PRAVO, (PRAGUE 246), FOUND THAT AIR WAS RELEASED FROM ALL FOUR TIRES OF HIS CAR THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 25-26.

5. TWO LOCAL SOURCES TELL US THAT VACLAV HAVEL WAS ABLE TO SEE LEGAL COUNCEL JANUARY 25 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HIS ARREST.

8. ONE CHARTER 77 SIGNATORY, A CHARLES UNIVERSITY ARCHITECT, JIRI ZARUBA, WAS REPORTED BY RUDE PRAVO JANUARY 26 TO HAVE RETRACTED HIS SIGNATURE.

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7. WE HAVE HEARD, BUT CANNOT YET CONFIRM, THAT CHARTER 77 MAY NOW BE MAKING THE ROUNDS IN RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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